

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159717

41

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TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULUHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159717

FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: MAO SEES CHINESE-AMERICAN DOCTOR

REF: PEKING 0716

1. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING DATA ON DR. LI CHEN-PIEN
(C. P. LI) TO PEKING, HONG KONG AND TAIPEI (REFTEL BEING
REPEATED TO TAIPEI).

2. LI WAS BORN OCTOBER 16, 1898, IN HSIANG-HSIANG, HUNAN.
RECEIVED M.D. FROM HUNAN-YALE MEDICAL COLLEGE IN 1925.
DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL CAREER IN CHINA AND US HAS INCLUDED
A GOOD MANY IMPORTANT RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS IN MICRO-
BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY. HEADED BACTERIOLOGY DEPARTMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 159717

OF NATIONALIST ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE 1937-47 AND THE

COLLEGE'S SERUM INSTITUTE 1940-47. RECEIVED SEVERAL HONORS FROM THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS IN THE PERIOD 1940-45, INCLUDING ONE FROM GRC IN 1944 FOR "LOYALTY AND DILIGENT WORK." CAME TO US IN 1949, WAS NATURALIZED IN 1955. FROM 1960 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1968 HE WAS CHIEF OF VIRUS BIOLOGY SECTION AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH. CURRENTLY HAS PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NIH FOGERTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER TO DO RESEARCH ON CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE.

3. NO INFO YET ON WIFE, NOR ON WHETHER LI HAS CONTACTS WITH TAIWAN, THOUGH HE WOULD LIKELY HAVE FRIENDS THERE FROM MAINLAND DAYS. HIS PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC WORK SHOULD IN ANY CASE MAKE HIM WELL KNOWN THERE AMONG SPECIALISTS IN HIS FIELD.

4. FOLLOWING EXTRACTS FROM CURRICULUM VITAE, APPARENTLY WRITTEN BY LI AROUND 1970, MAY SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON HONOR ACCORDED HIM IN PEKING.

5. "WHILE STUDYING IN THE PREMEDICAL SCHOOL IN CHANGSHA ... DR LI TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT AND BECAME A CLOSE FRIEND OF MAO TSE-TUNG WHO WAS THEN THE LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT. A YOUNG BUDDY OF MAO DIED OF SMALLPOX. DR. LI WROTE AN ARTICLE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDICINE IN CHINA AND THE POSSIBLE USEFULNESS OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE. THE ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN A SHANGHAI NEWSPAPER (AROUND 1920) WHICH ATTRACTED MAO'S ATTENTION. LATER DR. LI GAVE UP HIS INTEREST IN POLITICS AND CONCENTRATED IN MEDICAL SCIENCES."

6. "AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN 1945, DR. LI ... BECAME ENGAGED IN ASSISTING THE LATE GENERAL MARSHALL IN HIS MISSION. HE THEN BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH CHOU EN-LAI AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS." ROGERS

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